WAW ON LONDON

OUR REGULAR REPORTERS STILL CON-VALESCENT AND... YES

SOUTH GATE IN FIFTY-EIGHT.

№ 9A

CONTACT

9 oct 57

The Fifteenth World Science Fiction Convention was held from 6th to 9th September in the Kings Court Hotel, Bayswater, London. Total convention registration was 556, total actually present at the convention: 268, of whom something like 70 were from the other side of the A tlantic. Most of these came over on the plane chartered especially for the Convention, but several others came independently. Notable visitors included John W. Campbell, Guest of Honour, Boyd Rayburn, Wally Weber, Sam Moskowitz, Dave and Ruth Landis Kyle, Bob and Barbara Silverberg, Franklin and Belle Dietz, Bob Madle (TAFF representative), Herry Harrison, Forry Ackerman, Steve Schultheis and Rory Faulkner. Most welcome surprise arrival from this side of the Atlantic was Eric Frank Russell.

The program was loosely scheduled and designed to allow maximum time for conversation and allowance for unforeseen circumstances. Both were taken full advantage of.

The most notable events from the professional point of view were the banquet and the psionics session, in both of which John W.Campbell was the prime mover, and a speech by Moskowitz outlining the remarkable conclusions of a survey of sf readership.

From the fanpoint of view the Liverpool colour films were outstanding for their brilliance and technical polish and a brief but spectacular shooting affray involving the Goon Defective Agency for its originality and liveliness. Other notable events were a last minute auction conducted by Ted Tubb with all his legendary verve, a quiz contest on sf and fandom between Ackerman,Moskowitz and Madle, and the fancy dress ball. The A chievement Awards for prozines went to Astounding and New Worlds; SF Times won the Fanzine Award Hyphen being second by two votes,followed by Inside and Grue.

SOUTH GATE OF COURSE WON THE NOMINATION FOR THE 1958 CONVENTION SITE IN AN A TMOSPHERE OF ALMOST RELIGIOUS ENTHUSIASM.

The Convention was not notable so much for its program however as for its social success. There were no rows thefts, damages or other hooliganism. Instead there were four solid days and nights of quiet and congenial talk among constantly re-forming small groups, as a result of which many new friendships were made. The visitors from America and Canada made a notably

(cont. page 2)

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LONDON CONVENTION (ctd.)

fine impression on the British fans, being almost without exception quiet courteous and unassuming, as well as interesting and intelligent. One felt at the time, and feels it more strongly every day, that this convention did not end on the 9th September. Not just in the sense that many Americans in the following days dispersed all round Europe visiting local fan groups from Belfast to Bad Homburg, but in the sense that it started off a new era in fandom.

It was the first real world convention, and it has given birth to the first real world fandom. At least I feel that after this every national convention, on either side of the Atlantic, will seem to anyone who attended the Worldcon to be somehow incomplete.

The Convention was not a success financially, the Committee being at the last moment forced to pay an unexpected demand by the hotel management for £ 100 ($ 280.-) in respect of alleged reservations unclaimed, but no actual loss was sustained. There were also unsatisfactory features from the accomodation point of view, the premises being in the course of much-needed reconstruction during the convention, but on the other hand it was, to those to whom minor inconveniences assumed proper proportions, a memorable occasion and, in its quiet way, climactic. It represented the culmination of the revival of European fandom which has been gaining force since 1948 and of the tendency towards integration with American fandom which began soon afterwards. When seen in retrospective it will, I think, be seen as a triumph for both.

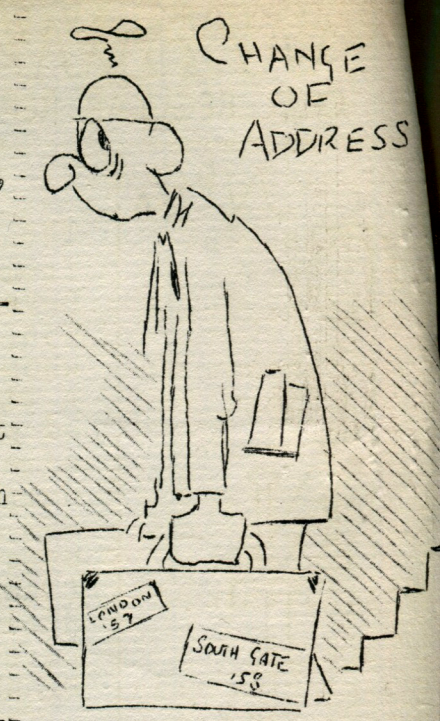
For this fandom owes sincere thanks to the Convention Committee and in particular its Secretary Bobbie Wild whose tireless and efficient work is beyond praise.

WALT WILLIS

TAFF ADMINISTRATORS MEET

At a conference in London the day after the Convention, between Bob Madle (new administrator of TAFF for America), Ken Bulmer and Walt Willis, all the various points which have been the subject of controversy among those interested in TAFF were discussed. Unanimous and amicable agreement was reached on them all, including methods of nomination and voting, voters' qualifications and methods of counting votes.

Prospective TAFF nominees for 1958 are understood to include Ron Bennett, Bobbie Wild and Dave Newman.



"Unlike many of the troops stationed here, I am not returning to the States with never a happy thought or care for my experiences over here. On the contrary, the memories I am taking back with me are fond ones of good times at the conventions, pubs, and homes of European fandom."

These words end the letter of Ellis Mills, his last letter from Franfurt.

Leaving the services Ellis will be at his home address (unless wanderlust hits again) at

2522 Front Street
CUYAHOGA FALLS,
Ohio, USA.

After all the chocolate and cheese he's eaten here, I'm looking forward to emptying his cupboard one of these fine years.

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SOUTH GATE IN '58

OKLAHOMA

The fifth annual Oklahoma Science Fiction Conference was held in ENID, Okla. August 31, Sept.1 & 2.

Although the program wasn't up to expected standard, this was more than made up by the after-hours sessions. Attendees were interviewed twice on radio (station KGWA - Enid) and once on television. Active with camera: Ellik, Hickman, Martinez and Wagner, any of whom may be contacted for prints.

Among the attendess were Lynn Hickmann (Illinois, editor of JD!) Ted Wagner, (formerly of Wisconsin now living in Houston, Texas), and Joe Christoff, the person who singlehandedly wrote and published a fanzine in Florida, without once mentioning his own name, instead using pennames of Tony Allen, Thorndyke, a.o.

The Dallas group was well represented with Randy Brown, Tom Reamy and Dale Hart. Ron Ellik, also attending, was the Mystery Guest of the evening.

Next year's convention will be held in Dallas, Texas, appropriately called 'Sixth Oklacon', and Tom Reamy will be chairman for the affair.

Tulsa was present through Ron Parker and Sambo Martinez.

Thanks should go to Walt Bowart and Kent Corey for sweating away at preparing the convention.

Ron Ellik.

TO GO OR ____ ???

A printed circular went out to many fans a month or two ago regarding the WAW & WIFE TO THE GATE fund, stating that Walt had turned down the offer of the South Gaters, and requesting them to stop the appeals.

The first reason for rejecting help was that any such fund would mean less money for TAFF. This may be the case with a few fans, who would send in their money to the Fund rather than to TAFF, but these would indeed be a minority. Most fans would undoubtedly send in the minimum (at least) amount requested for both funds, while a Fund such as the WAW one, will receive support from people who refuse to partake in TAFF on the basis that there they don't know who will get the money, Saying that a Fund would take money away from TAFF is like suggesting you don't publish a fanzine, because the other faned wouldn't receive a renewal sub to his zine.

The second reason I can understand all too well. Only weeks ago a certain Continental fan I know refused a return ticket to London. The decision is Walt's, but Walt, I'd think twice about South Gate, especially in '58.

Opinions from other fans are requested by Rick Sneary, 2962 Santa Ana St., SOUTH GATE, Calif. Did you drop him a line?

JJ

SOUTH GATE

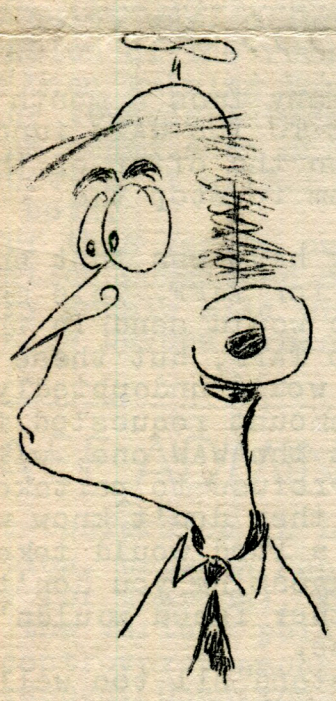
IT IS

HE DIDN'T KNOW!

HE DOESN'T SUB TO CONTACT

CONTACT

№ 9 _____ 9 oct '57



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